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## NOVEMBER MEETING, 1898.

THE stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th instant, at three o'clock, P.M., in the Library of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the President, CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., in the chair.

After the reading of the record of the last meeting and of the list of donors to the Library, the PRESIDENT submitted the following report:—

At the last meeting (October) of the Society, the Report of the Council in relation to the proposed plan for publishing memorial editions of the histories of Bradford and Winthrop, submitted at the June meeting, was, after discussion, recommended to the Council. In relation to this matter, the Council would now further report as follows:—

In the view the Council have taken of the proposed editions of these two works, the question turns mainly upon Winthrop's "Journal." The manuscript of the "Journal," so far as it is still in existence, is in the custody of the Society, and justly considered the most interesting, as well as the most valuable document in its possession. In regard to the "Journal," therefore, a certain responsibility would seem to attach to the Society. Adequate provision ought at least by it to be made that no edition of the "Journal" in any way unworthy should be brought out at this or at any future time. That the editions heretofore published are exhausted is apparent from the fact that no copies of any of them can now be obtained from the booksellers; and that, when copies from time to time find their way to the public, they are immediately purchased at prices at least twice that of their publication. Under these circumstances it is apparent that in the case of such a standard authority as Winthrop's "Journal" a new edition will be called for, and be forthcoming, at some future time, whether more or less remote. In the opinion of the Council, that edition, when published, should be brought out under the auspices of the Society.

The Council is, on the other hand, fully sensible of the obligation as respects this manuscript we, as a Society, are under to the Winthrop family. It feels that, under existing circumstances, no action should be taken by the Society in regard to the "Journal" except with the concurrence, and, if possible, the co-operation, of that family. Its present representative here has, for reasons which will be recorded in our Proceedings, and which, moreover, are in themselves entitled to grave consideration, expressed his extreme unwillingness to have the Society enter at this time upon the work of publishing a new edition in the way proposed.

As respects Bradford's History the case, so far as this Society is concerned, has seemed to the Council to rest on a wholly different ground. Apart from the fact that the first edition of Bradford was published as a volume of our Collections, with annotations by the late Charles Deane, we have no more special connection with the Bradford, or its future editions, than any other historical or learned society in the Commonwealth. The Deane edition of 1856 is exhausted; but not only has a facsimile edition of the original manuscript since been published, but another large edition of the text, without annotations, has recently been printed by the Commonwealth, copies of which can be obtained at a nominal cost.

Under these circumstances, there would not seem to be any immediate or pressing call for a new edition of Bradford. There is, also, no reason to apprehend another edition of a character which would interfere with some future edition brought out by this Society in accordance with the scheme recommended by the Council in the report under consideration.

The suggestion of a memorial edition of the Bradford history at this time, wholly distinct from a similar and uniform edition of the Winthrop, does not, therefore, commend itself to the judgment of the Council; for, besides the fact that no especial demand for it exists, there does not seem to be any good reason to believe that such an edition, distinct from the Winthrop, would accomplish the purposes, so far as the Society is concerned, the Council had in view, as set forth in the Report which has been recommitted.

Under these circumstances, it seems to the Council inad-

visible that any further immediate action should be taken on the Report submitted at the June meeting. Mr. Winthrop has intimated that, in his judgment, as well as that of the Council, another edition of the "Journal" will at some future period be required. It becomes, therefore, a mere question of time; and, in view of the discussion had, and vote taken, at the last meeting of the Society, the Council recommends that the scheme as proposed be allowed to remain in abeyance until some future day, when, there is reason to believe, it may be taken up on a basis which shall command practically unanimous assent and general co-operation.

By order of the Council,

CHARLES F. ADAMS, *President*.

On motion of Rev. Dr. EDMUND F. SLAFTER the report was accepted by a unanimous vote.

The President then announced the death of Julius Dexter, a Corresponding Member, who died suddenly in Cincinnati October 21st, and called on Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN, who paid a brief tribute to Mr. Dexter's large public spirit and the many useful services which he had rendered to his native city.

The President then called for communications from the Third Section of the Society, and Rev. EDWARD J. YOUNG spoke in substance as follows:—

I desire to present as a bequest from the late Lieutenant-Colonel Charles B. Fox, of Dorchester, five manuscript volumes, comprising his journal and extracts from his correspondence during the Civil War. The first two volumes relate to the time when he was connected with the Thirtieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, which was attached to the Army of the Potomac, from July 29, 1861, to February 5, 1863. The last three consist of letters written to his wife while he was an officer of the Fifty-fifth Regiment of Volunteer Infantry (which was the second colored regiment sent forth from this State, Colonel Shaw having commanded the first, which was the Fifty-fourth), and they extend from July 23, 1863, to May 22, 1865. These volumes were given by him to our Society, with the proviso that they shall not be accessible to the public during the lifetime of any

of those who took part in the events described, — that is, until the year 1915. The diary of Rev. Dr. John Pierce of Brookline, the grandfather of Colonel Fox, which consists of eighteen manuscript volumes, is deposited in the library of this Society under similar restrictions.

In these records deserved tribute is paid to the good conduct, courage, and efficiency of the colored troops, who by their soldierly bearing won the admiration of those who had been prejudiced against them. The author describes the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and the capture of Charleston, South Carolina, which was the cradle and hotbed of the Rebellion; and he pictures graphically the scene when after its evacuation the colored soldiers marched through its streets, singing “John Brown,” “Babylon is falling,” and the “Battle Cry of Freedom.” The white population remained within their houses, but peeped through the blinds as the “Black Yankees” passed, while cheers, blessings, and prayers were heard on every side.

The following passages from these books give an insight into the character of the man, and show his style as a writer: —

“This afternoon our full company, accompanied by the band, attended a funeral, and escorted the remains to the borders of the town, where the usual guard of a corporal and eight men took charge of the body. The services were held in the open street, in front of the house where he died. The coffin was draped with the American flag, and a bouquet was placed upon it, the whole company resting their heads on their reversed rifles while the prayer and reading continued. A military funeral at the seat of war is a solemn sight. The marching to the quarters of the deceased, without music, even a drum tap; the roll of the drums, long and low, as the body passes the lines; the moving at slow time and with reversed arms to the grave or elsewhere, all conspire to affect the mind. But the ceremony ended, the corpse consigned to its rest, the arms are shouldered, the lively music is resumed, and too often as quickly passes the effect of the scene.”

“The Band has just commenced to play, as is usual on pleasant evenings. Christmas eve, celebrated by a regiment of colored troops on the soil of South Carolina and within sight of the shapeless ruins of Fort Sumter, no word of mine can make stranger the naked truth.”

“We are patiently watching the front door of Charleston to prevent its inhabitants from burning it, after the manner of Moscow, and taking

to their ships, while General Sherman or General Grant gets around to the back door."

"As I rode into Charleston at the head of the regiment — the first Union troops that have entered the place, except as prisoners, since the beginning of the rebellion — and saw the formidable batteries we have fronted for more than eighteen months; when I saw the Stars and Stripes waving over Moultrie, and, above all, Sumter; and witnessed the shouts and rejoicings of hundreds of the slaves made free by our coming, who lined the road, I could hardly keep the tears from my eyes, and could not but feel that such a scene comes but once in a lifetime. I could not find words to describe our march. Those who were there will remember it in after years as the greatest of the events of their lives. All the trials and hardships of the war were for the time forgotten in the one great triumph, the fall of the birthplace of this iniquitous rebellion."

Charles Barnard Fox was born in Newbury, now Newburyport, on January 17, 1833, and was the eldest son of Rev. Thomas Bayley Fox and Feroline Walley (Pierce) Fox. His father was a Unitarian clergyman, who at that time was settled over the Harris Street church in Newburyport. After attending public and private schools, in 1852 he became a student of civil engineering in Boston, and in 1853 and 1854 he was engaged on railroad surveys in Georgia and South Carolina. In 1858 he visited Kansas. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, he joined the "Fourth Battalion of Rifles," a militia organization which was sent to Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, and formed the nucleus of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, in which he was made a lieutenant. In July 29th the regiment left for the front, and at this time the first volume of the diary begins. When the Fifty-fifth Colored Regiment was recruited, he was commissioned Major, then promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel, and afterwards was brevetted Colonel for gallant action on the field. At the close of the war Colonel Fox returned to civil life, and for a time held the position of Inspector in the Boston Custom House, which he resigned to carry on a real-estate agency, in which he continued until his death, which occurred at his home in Dorchester, March 30, 1895.

Colonel Fox was active in public affairs, and served two terms in the Legislature of the State. He was a man of sterling

principles and character, always interested for the comfort of those entrusted to his care, and solicitous for their moral as well as physical welfare. He opposed strongly the vices of camp life, intemperance and gambling, and he said, "There is one thing which I always do when in command, and that is I stop card-playing among the men on Sunday. If there were no other reason, the effect of having all days alike is bad." He had a high standard of what a regiment should be, and he endeavored to bring his men up to it; and in his letters he criticised unsparingly those officers' who were lax in discipline and loose in practice. He was not anxious for promotion, but strove rather to be faithful in the place which had been assigned to him. He had a love of music, an appreciation of the beauties of nature, and he was warmly attached to his kindred and friends. The tributes which were paid to his memory after his death bore witness to his genial presence and courteous bearing, his high-mindedness and integrity, his thoughtfulness and sympathy, and they expressed the indebtedness and gratitude of the community for his life, character, and example.

WILLIAM W. GOODWIN, D.C.L., communicated the following letter, written two days after the battle of Lexington, and sent to a member of his family, addressed "To Col<sup>o</sup> George Watson, In Plymouth, & Mr Job Howland, a special Courier." The writer of the letter was descended on the mother's side from Governor Thomas Hinckley, and was born January 23, 1715. He died March 16, 1783. In the historical sketches of Barnstable by the late Hon. Amos Otis, printed in the "Barnstable Patriot," it is stated that the "Hon. Edward Bacon, youngest son of Deacon Samuel, was a distinguished man in his time. He held many important offices. He took an active part during the Revolution, and in the stirring times immediately preceding it. His patriotism was at one time doubted; but the resolutions passed by the town and recorded vindicate h's character as a patriot and a man."

BARNSTABLE, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1775.

MY EVER DEAR SIR — I shall not at this time trouble you with the heart felt distress under which I now groan for the distressed situation of my dear country, but only to desire you to favor us with the most particular acc<sup>t</sup> of the late dreadful maneuvers that have taken place of late

to the northward that has come to y<sup>r</sup> hand. The favor will be gratefully acknowledged by many of your friends here, more especially by  
Y<sup>r</sup> real friend & humble ser<sup>t</sup>.

EDW<sup>D</sup> BACON.

Mr. Goodwin also exhibited the original survey of Clark's Island in Plymouth harbor, made in 1687-8 for Nathaniel Clark by direction of Sir Edmund Andros, who wanted the island either for himself or for Clark. Ownership of the island was claimed by the town of Plymouth, which stoutly resisted this attempt to dispossess it. The overthrow of Andros in 1689 decided the matter. But the town was involved in so great expense that it was obliged to sell the island in 1690. A facsimile of the plan is herewith given.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN said: —

The following anecdote, told by Dr. William Eustis to Dr. Redford Webster, formerly an officer of the Historical Society, is found in a volume of Collections (second series, IV. 51, 52) of this Society, which was published in the year 1816. At that time Dr. Eustis had been a surgeon in the army throughout the Revolutionary War, and had also been a Member of Congress, and Secretary of War under President Madison; and later he was Governor of the Commonwealth. I mention these facts in some detail in order to show that he was a man of position and prominence, and that his statements are entitled to weight. Furthermore, for a considerable period of time while hospital surgeon, Dr. Eustis lived in the house of Colonel Beverly Robinson, opposite to West Point, in which Benedict Arnold had his headquarters. These circumstances all go to confirm the story as told in the account, which is given below: —

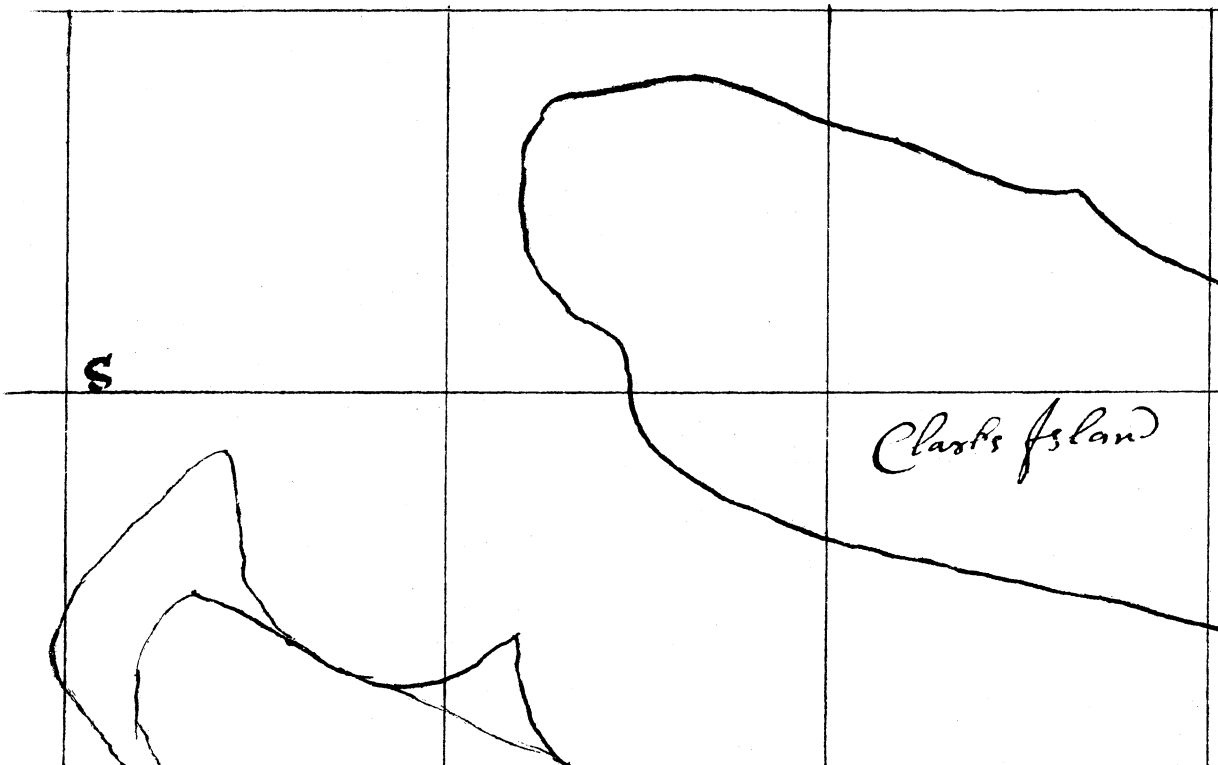
#### ANECDOTE OF THE SOLDIERS OF ARNOLD.

WHEN the Traitor Arnold deserted his post at West Point on Hudson's River, he was rowed in his barge to the British Sloop of war, "the Vulture," then lying near Tappan Bay. On leaving the shore from his quarters, which were on the East side of the river, about two miles below the point, the Cockswain of the boat put the bow of the boat up the river as usual, for the point. Arnold ordered him to put the boat about and go down the river with all possible expedition, adding, that



By Vastew of a Warrant from  
 Andrew Knight Captaine Generall  
 of his Majesties Territory and  
 bearing Date Boston the 23<sup>rd</sup> of  
 Have surveyed and Laid out for Mr. Ha  
 certaine small Island being known  
 Clarks Island and is situate and lieng  
 Bay baring from the meeting howe in  
 East about three miles and is bounde  
 and flats and ronteynes Eighty six  
 and three Rod performed this 3<sup>d</sup> Day

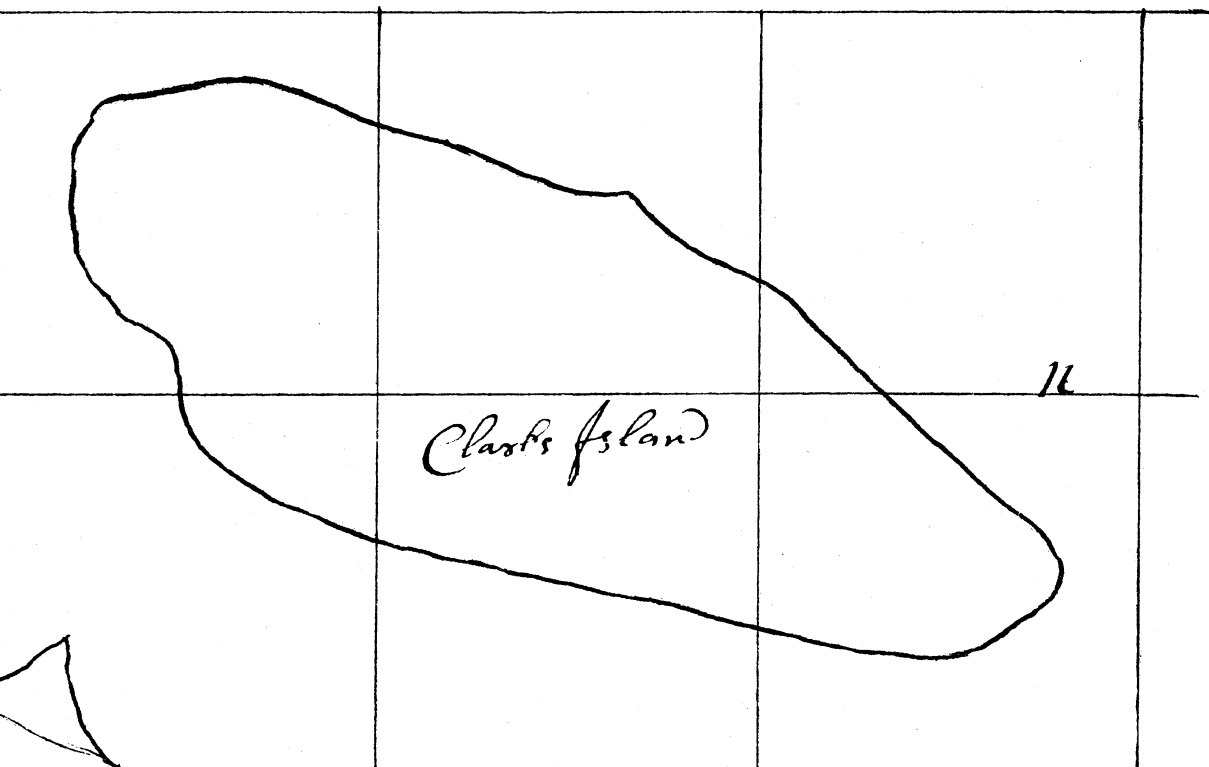
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By Vastew of a Warrant from his Excellency J. D. And  
Anders Knight Captaine Generall and Govern. in Chief  
of his Majesties Territory and Dominion of New England  
bearing Date Boston the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> 1687

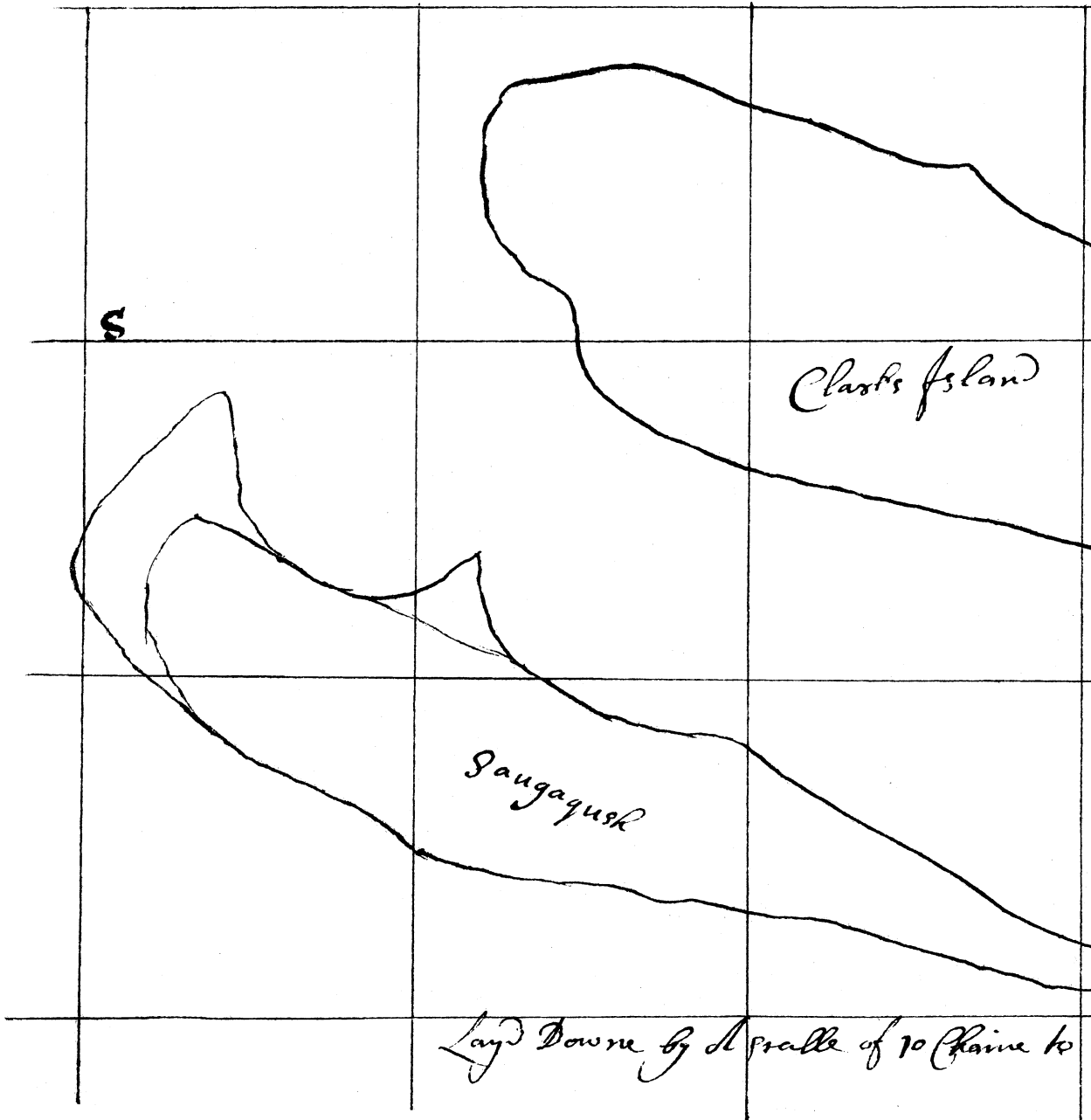
Have surveyed and Laid out for M<sup>r</sup>. Nathaniell Clarke a  
 certaine small Island being knowne by the name of  
Clarke Island and is situate and lying in new Plimoth  
Bay baring from the meeting house in plimoth north north  
East about three miles and is bounded Down with water  
and flats and ronteynes Eighty six Akers and a quarter  
and three Rod performed this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of March 1687

Philip Weller s<sup>r</sup>uon



and flats and ronteynes eighty six  
and three Rod performed this 3<sup>d</sup> day

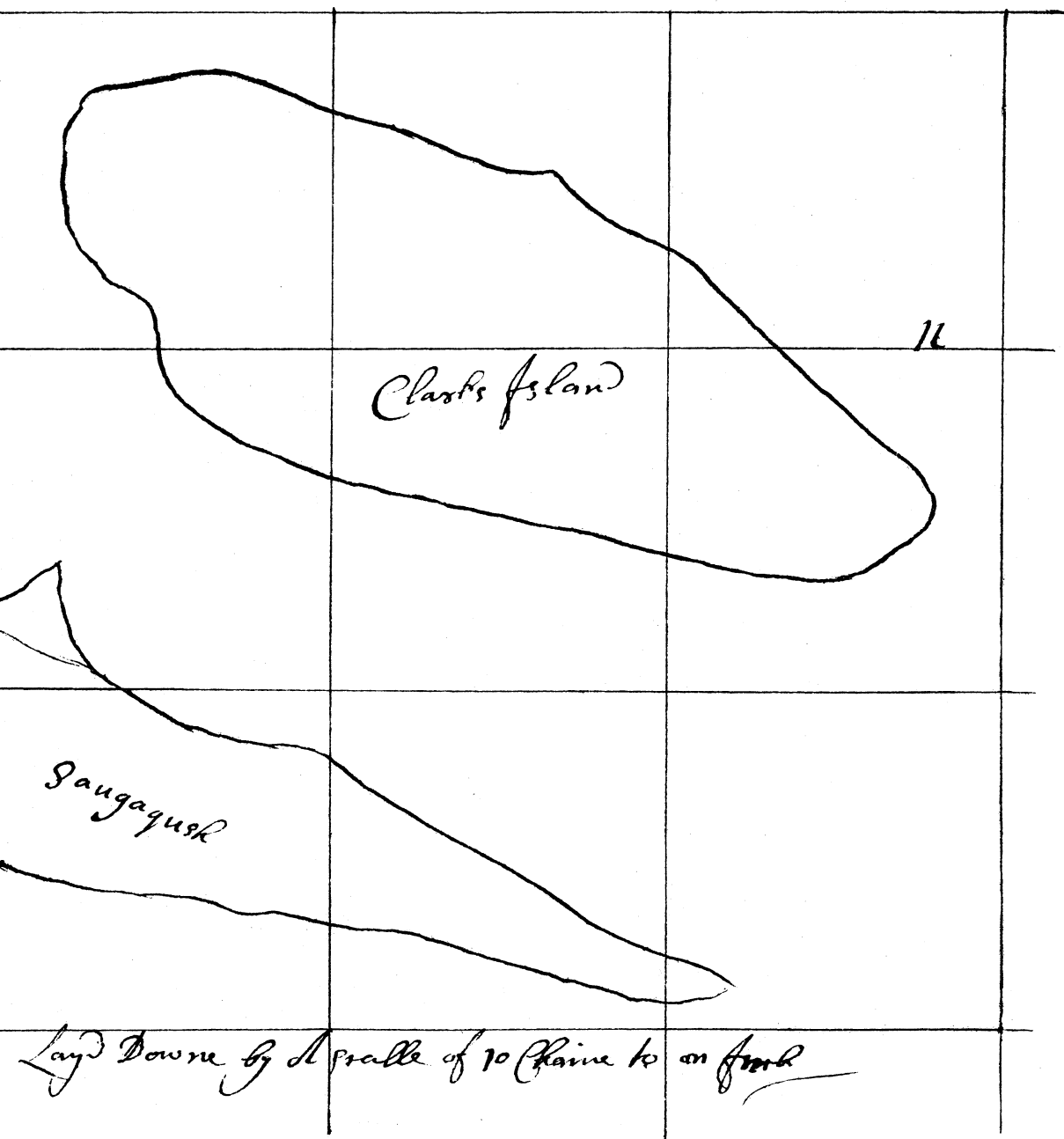
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Lay Down by a scale of 10 Chains to

in flats and ronteynes Eighty six Akers and a quarter  
in three Rod performed this 3<sup>d</sup> Day of March 1687

Philip Weller s<sup>r</sup>u<sup>d</sup>



he was going on board the "Vulture" on business of the greatest importance. After about an hour and an half or two hours, the barge reached the Vulture. Arnold went on board and ordered the crew to come on board. They did so. After some time Arnold came on deck from the cabin, and told the crew that he had quit the rebel service and joined the standard of his Britannick Majesty; that he should have orders to raise a brigade in that service, and addressing himself to the corporal and eight privates, which constituted his barge's crew, added, "if you will join me, my lads, I will make serjeants or corporals of you all; and for you James," turning to the corporal, "I will do something more." Surprized and indignant the corporal replied, "No sir, one coat is enough for me to wear at a time." Two of the bargemen who had been British deserters remained with Arnold, the others with their cockswain, the corporal, returned to their duty, not in the barge they had rowed down, but in an ordinary inferior boat, Arnold having the meanness to steal the barge, which he probably kept for his own use.

The name of the corporal was James Lurvey or Larvey (it is presumed Lurvey.) He belonged to the Massachusetts regiment, commanded by Rufus Putnam, and it is believed came from the county of Worcester, either from Brookfield or some neighbouring town.

The circumstances were related to me by Lurvey, who was well known to me, and confirmed by the other bargemen on their return in the old boat, who heard James make the reply to Arnold.

As an instance of virtue on the part of Lurvey, and as a cutting reproach on Arnold, I have always had a desire to see the anecdote on record. It is possible Lurvey may still be alive, in which case his evidence may afford more particulars than my recollection at this distance of time can supply. One of the bargemen by the name of Hawkes belonged to the same district with Lurvey, but from the state of his health at the time it is doubtful whether he is alive.

According to your request I have stated the principal fact, and am with respect,

Dear Sir,

your obedient servant,

Dr. R. WEBSTER.

W. EUSTIS.

Within a very few years the Rolls of the Revolutionary soldiers preserved among the Massachusetts Archives at the State House have been carefully indexed; and it is easy now to trace the military history of the men whose names are there recorded. From this source I have gathered various references to Lurvey, from which a skeleton of his army service can be put together. In these days of patriotic societies, made up of

the Sons and the Daughters, etc., such facts are always welcome. It is evident that Dr. Eustis was wrong in his impression that the soldier came from Brookfield or any other town of that neighborhood, as the records show that he belonged in Gloucester. In detailing men to row a boat, it was very natural to take a coxswain who came from the seacoast, and one who would know how to manage a crew or to pull an oar.

James Lurvey's name first appears on a Muster Roll as having enlisted on May 29, 1775, in Captain Rowe's company, Colonel Bridge's regiment; and then on the Coat Roll of eight months' service. Again, he appears as a corporal in a Return of Captain Benjamin Gates's company, Colonel Putnam's regiment, dated at Albany, on February 9, 1778; and later, in a "Pay Account," as a corporal in Captain Gardner's company, Colonel Putnam's regiment, from March 4, 1777, to December 31, 1779. The name is found, also, in a "Pay Account" for the year 1780, where he is still recorded as a corporal. It is found, again, in "A Return of the Men belonging to the Town of Gloucester Jan<sup>y</sup> 1781 in the Continental Army for 3 Years or During the War," as a sergeant in Captain Killam's company, Fifth Massachusetts regiment (Colonel Putnam's).

Our late associate Mr. Babson, in his History of Gloucester (p. 596), says that Lurvey was a private in Captain Rowe's company at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Furthermore, there was a John Hawks serving in a Massachusetts regiment, whose residence, according to one roll, was Falmouth (Portland), and, according to another, Casco Bay; and, presumably, he was the bargeman alluded to by Dr. Eustis as coming from the same district as Lurvey, though this statement would be true only in a very general way.

These several references to James Lurvey show clearly that he came from Gloucester, and not from any town in Worcester County. In his day and generation he may have been an obscure individual, but he was true to his country. Like many other patriots of the Revolution, he has long been forgotten, and the act has passed out of mind. The purpose of these remarks is to rescue his name from undeserved oblivion, and to place it in the list of those whose memory is fondly cherished by his countrymen.

ALBERT B. HART, Ph.D., expressed a hope that the American Historical Association would hold its annual meeting next year in Boston, and offered the following vote, which on the suggestion of the President was referred to the Council:

*Voted*, That the Massachusetts Historical Society cordially invites the American Historical Association to hold its annual meeting in December, 1899, in Boston; and offers its new building as a place for holding the sessions of the Association.

The President expressed the gratification of the Society at the presence of J. F. Jameson, LL.D., recently elected a Corresponding Member, and referring to the useful work done by him as head of the Historical Manuscripts Commission established by the American Historical Association, asked him to give some account of his efforts to obtain traces of the manuscripts of John C. Calhoun. MR. JAMESON said:—

I have great pleasure in being present for the first time at one of the meetings of this venerable and famous Society, and in expressing my thanks for the honor that has been done me in electing me a Corresponding Member. The Historical Manuscripts Commission, respecting a portion of whose work the President asks me to speak, was established by the American Historical Association, three years ago, with purposes nearly similar to those of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of England. It was felt that the Federal Government and the State Governments were likely, in course of time, to deal with the historical manuscripts that are in their possession, but that a special agency might properly be created for dealing with the great but scattered mass of historical manuscripts which are in private hands. It was not intended that it should conflict with any existing agencies, such as the historical societies, but that it should supplement them, dealing with manuscript materials for the history of the whole Union, or for a considerable portion of it, rather than with those which relate to the history of individual States, and which fall therefore more especially within the purview of local historical societies. The function of the Historical Manuscripts Commission was to collect information respecting

manuscripts in private hands and to prepare for publication some portion of them, which the American Historical Association should then put into print through the agency of the Government Printing Office.

Our first volume embraced a varied assortment of materials hitherto unprinted, because it was desired to make the intention and the scope of our work understood by as wide a circle of readers as possible, dwelling in various parts of the United States. The second report, now in press, is in character supplementary to the first. But from the beginning I have had it in mind that one of the most interesting tasks which the Commission might perform would be to make available to historical scholars those Calhoun manuscripts to which the President has alluded. The manuscripts of John C. Calhoun had been in my mind for several years before the Historical Manuscripts Commission was instituted. My attention had first been called to them by a passage in the beginning of Professor von Holst's "John C. Calhoun." He said virtually that he had not been able to get hold of Mr. Calhoun's unpublished correspondence; he rather implied that it did not matter much, because he could construct a satisfactory Calhoun without them, the records of the man's public life being ample. But he indicated that the papers had been in the hands of Mr. R. M. T. Hunter of Virginia. At the time I read the book, a dozen years ago, I lived in Baltimore. Through friends I entered into correspondence with the heir of Mr. Hunter, and finally traced the papers back into the hands of Mr. Clemson, Calhoun's son-in-law. Mr. Clemson kindly invited me to come to Fort Hill and examine the papers. I was unable to do so. Soon after, he died. The question of the property rights in these papers was for some time unsettled. I moved away from Baltimore, and thought little more of the papers until the creation of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Of late, their present possessors, the trustees of Clemson Agricultural College, acting through one of their number, Senator Tillman of South Carolina, have turned over to me the whole mass of Calhoun papers in their possession, and they are now in Providence, for use in the contemplated edition of Mr. Calhoun's correspondence. The letters written by Mr. Calhoun, embraced in this collection, number about four hundred, and there are about three thousand letters to him. The letters



from him are mostly addressed to members of his own family, but since some of these were persons of remarkable intelligence in respect to political affairs, they are much more valuable in this respect than is often the case with the family letters of deceased statesmen. This collection, however, is only the basis of the collection which I propose to make. The present representative of Mr. Calhoun's eldest son has promised me all the letters in his possession. Minor collections, some of them of considerable importance, have already begun to come in. Among these are the remains of the correspondence of Calhoun with Duff Green; an interesting series of letters that passed between him and Senator and Governor J. H. Hammond of South Carolina, for which I am indebted to Mr. Hammond's son; and a series of letters from Mr. Calhoun to Major C. Van Deventer, who was his chief clerk while he was Secretary of War, and was afterwards one of his active political supporters in the Middle States. Our President has been so kind as to promise me the use of any letters of Calhoun which may be found among the papers of John Quincy Adams, and I have assurances or hopes of a very general cooperation in various parts of the country. I believe that the compilation is already assured of a considerable degree of completeness, and I need not say that any collection of the letters of Mr. Calhoun, if it at all approaches completeness, must inevitably be of much interest to students of American history. I should be very greatly obliged if gentlemen present who possess, or who know persons who possess, letters of Calhoun, would be so kind as to inform me of the fact. The compilation will not be handed over to the American Historical Association and to the Government Printing Office until Christmas, 1899.

Remarks were also made during the meeting by Messrs. ALBERT B. HART, WILLIAM W. GOODWIN, GEORGE B. CHASE, and CHARLES C. SMITH.